United Nations ST/IC/2009/28

Secretariat

20 July 2009

Information circular*

To: Members of delegations and staff

From: The Under-Secretary-General for Management

Subject: **First day of issue, 6 August 2009: "ECOSOC" stamps and souvenir cards**

Commemorative stamps

1. On Thursday, 6 August 2009, the United Nations Postal Administration (UNPA) will issue a set of six commemorative stamps and a souvenir card on the theme "ECOSOC" (Economic and Social Council).

2. The stamps will be issued in denominations of $0.44, $0.98, SwF 0.85, SwF 1.80, €0.55 and €0.65. The stamps were illustrated by Rorie Katz (United Nations, New York) and were printed in offset by Sweden Post.

(United States equivalents: SwF 0.85: $0.78; SwF 1.80: $1.65; €0.55: $0.77; and €0.65: $0.91, subject to exchange rate fluctuation.)

3. The stamps focus on the following themes: Water and sanitation ($0.44); Traditional medicines ($0.98); Improve maternal health (SwF 0.85); Access to essential medicines (SwF 1.80); Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases (€0.55); and Reduce child mortality (€0.65).

* Expiration date of the present information circular: 6 November 2009.

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Economic and Social Council

4. The Economic and Social Council was established under the Charter of the United Nations as the principal organization to coordinate the economic, social and related work of the 14 specialized agencies of the United Nations system, the nine functional commissions and the five regional commissions. The Council also receives reports from 11 United Nations funds and programmes. It serves as the central forum for discussing international economic and social issues, and for formulating policy recommendations addressed to Member States and the United Nations system. The Council is responsible for:

- Promoting higher standards of living, full employment, and economic and social progress;
- Identifying solutions to international economic, social and health problems;
- Facilitating international cultural and educational cooperation;
- Encouraging universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

5. At the World Summit in 2005, Heads of State and Government mandated the Economic and Social Council to hold an annual ministerial review, a new vehicle for meeting the Millennium Development Goals by the 2015 target date. The theme of the review for 2009 is "Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to global public health". This theme, which is of vital importance to the international community, will bring together world leaders to try to find appropriate ways to strengthen health systems to serve all, especially the poorest and most vulnerable worldwide.

6. Against this background, and as part of the Economic and Social Council campaign to spur action towards achieving the internationally agreed Millennium Development Goals, the United Nations Postal Administration, in collaboration with the Council's secretariat, decided to issue six stamps adopting the theme of the annual ministerial review 2009.

Souvenir card — "ECOSOC"

7. A souvenir card on the theme "ECOSOC" will also be issued on 6 August 2009. The card depicts the new stamps and carries statements by Ban Ki-moon, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, and by Sylvie Lucas, the President of the Economic and Social Council.

8. A quantity of 17,500 cards were printed in offset by Sweden Post. The souvenir card measures 8 inches horizontally by 6 inches vertically (203 mm x 152 mm). The souvenir card, in either mint or cancelled condition, will be available for a period of three months while supplies last.

General information

9. For the convenience of collectors, UNPA at Headquarters will provide prepared and cancelled New York, Geneva and Vienna first-day covers on the UNPA official first-day cachets **only**. Members of delegations and the staff can obtain these items on Thursday, 6 August, at the following locations:

(a) The UNPA sales counter in the concourse of the General Assembly Building, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.;

(b) A temporary sales counter located on the east side of the Secretariat Lobby in front of the windows between the cafeteria and the news-stand, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

10. First-day-of-issue cancellations can be obtained at a temporary United States Postal Service substation located outside the United Nations Bookshop in the concourse of the General Assembly Building, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

11. Information on United Nations stamps can be accessed on the Internet at http://unstamps.un.org.